Group insurance of colliery workers

3065. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group insurance of colliery workers has been announced;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said scheme has been opposed, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Coal Mine workers are covered under the Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. However, the colliery workers of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited have been exempted from the operation of this scheme and are covered by a Life Cover Scheme. The employees are not required to pay any premium towards this scheme and the expenditure is met by the employers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Supply of substandard coal to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

3066. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has alleged that the coal supplied to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is substandard; and

(b) if not, what action has been taken for the false claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) There have been some complaints from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board regarding quality of coal supplied to them. These complaints mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials and over sized coal. While steps are being taken to ensure supply of proper quality of coal, it may be observed that presence of extraneous materials can not be completely ruled out unless coal is subjected to beneficiation. The actual quality of coal supplies to power houses is however determined based on the analysis and payment is accordingly regulated.

Following steps are being taken by Coal Companies to improve the quality of coal supplies sent to consumers, including the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board:

(i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Wherever feasible slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) Consumers, including TNEB, are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal despatches.

Abandoning of Coal Mining Projects

3067. PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects subsidiary-wise have to be abandoned on account of failure inspite of approval